

VZCZCXRO1877

OO RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHDA RUEHDF RUEHFL RUEHIK RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHLN
RUEHLZ RUEHPOD RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHROV #0064 2421544
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O P 291544Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0975
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0007
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0002
RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN 1009

UNCLAS VATICAN 000064

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KIRF](#) [RU](#) [GG](#) [VT](#)

SUBJECT: (SBU) HOLY SEE NOT CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF SOUTH OSSETIA
AND ABKHAZIA

REF: A. A) STATE 91894

[1](#)B. B) VATICAN 63

[1](#)1. (SBU) Pol Chief delivered reftel A demarche to Monsignor
Julio Murat, Director for the Caucasus at the Holy See
Secretariat of State Second Section (MFA equivalent), on August
[1](#)29. Murat stated that the Holy See is not considering
recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Comment: The focus of the Holy See's concerns in the
Russian-Georgian conflict is humanitarian assistance (reftel B)
and preventing the escalation of international tensions in the
region and beyond. While the Holy See will abstain from
recognizing the two secessionist regions, it is unlikely that it
will condemn and reject Russia's decision to do so, as it is not
the practice of the Holy See to explicitly criticize other
governments' actions publicly. End comment.

GLENDON